

Flight Jacket

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

April 27, 2001

Corps programs offer hope for future



Emily F. Kinlein, 8, glides through the water of a slip and slide as Crystal S. Marinelli, 4, waits for her turn. The children beat the summer heat after school Wednesday in base housing on station. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

It is no coincidence that the "Month of the Military Child" shares billing with "National Child Abuse Prevention Month" during the month of April. It affords an opportunity to shine some positive light on a subject commonly thought of as a negative — child abuse.

News media, television shows, even movies and music discuss this subject that many find not merely distasteful, but completely unpalatable.

"Child abusers are predators and we must

work to stop the destruction of children," said Dr. Mary Appenzellar, psychologist. "Even one case is too many."

There does seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the number of child abuse and neglect reports fell from over 900,000 in 1998 to just over 820,000 nationwide in 1999.

"We are encouraged by the continuing decline in the number of children who are maltreated, but it is nevertheless unacceptable that so many children are suffering," said HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. "We will continue to encourage states to do

everything they can to prevent child abuse and neglect. We must remain committed to ensuring that all children live in safe, permanent and loving homes."

According to an April 2 HHS press release, the previous six years have seen a trend as the number of victimized children in the United States decreased approximately 19.2 percent from the record 1,018,692 in 1993.

The United States Marine Corps offers programs such as the New Parent Support Program to support Marine Corps families, according to Karen M. Smith, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine New Parent Support Program director.

"In crisis and normal growth and development, the program is there for the family," said Smith.

"We sort of fill in for moms and grandmas for families that are a long way from home," said Donna Ronan, Marine New Parent Support Program administrative assistant. "We offer first-time parents support that otherwise may not be available."

According to Smith, the services, from playgroup to education classes such as Baby Boot Camp, home visitation and support groups, are all offered at no cost to the Marine Corps family. "We have so many that are interested in the program, there is currently a waiting list," said Smith.

The area program is in the process of adding to the staff to meet the needs of families in the program, according to Smith.

"This is a positive indicator of the use of Marine Corps programs geared toward education and child abuse prevention," said Staff Sgt. Sean M. Doran, squadron gunnery sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

For more information about family services available aboard Miramar call Marine Corps Community Services at 577-9812 or the counseling center directly at 577-6585.

Cole named Marine of the Year finalist

By Cpl. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

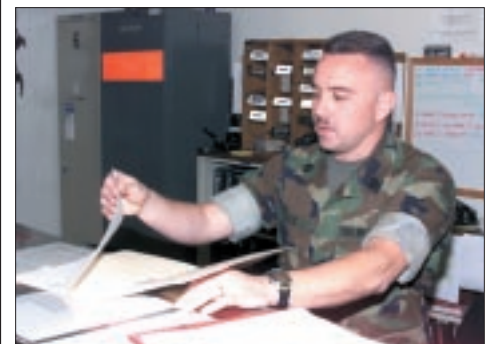
Gunnery Sergeant Christopher W. Cole, Marine Fighter-Attack Squadron 232 maintenance material control chief, was selected as one of four finalists in the Marine Corps Times' Marine of the Year contest recently.

Sergeant Kimberly E. Tomasino, VMFA-232 electrician, says she nominated him for Marine of the Year because Cole inspires the whole squadron with his whole-hearted approach. "He puts forth all of his energy and effort into his job, and it's infectious."

Tomasino saw an ad in the Marine Corps Times asking for nominees for the Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year contest. According to Tomasino, she couldn't have thought of anyone better than Cole.

At the time, Tomasino worked for Cole as a maintenance controller. She said his leadership ability was remarkable and left a permanent impression on her.

See **Cole**, page 11



Gunnery Sergeant Christopher W. Cole, VMFA-232 maintenance material control chief, is one of the four finalists for the Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year Contest recently. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

ForeRunners man 'floating factory' for Pacific Provider '21

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

In the mid-1980's, the Marine Corps took two commercial cargo ships and modified them to make aviation logistic support ships called T-AVBs.

To ensure mission readiness, approximately 315 members of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 are en route to Port Huaname to one of these ships, the SS Curtiss, to conduct Operation Pacific Provider '21.

The Curtiss provides the Marines a floating factory, from which they can store, transport and fix most parts for both rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

In a transportation mode, the ship can carry up to 600 containers measuring 8 feet wide, 8 feet tall and 20 feet long, called mobile facilities. In an operational mode, the ship can carry 300 MFs, which can then be used for administration spaces, storage and repair centers where the Marines are able to repair avionics, airframes, flight equipment, hydraulics, limited dynamic components and ordnance.

"We need to be able to unplug our complex, get it transported to where we are going, load it, and live and work from that facility on the ship," said Lt. Col. Gary D. Wiest, commanding officer, MALS-16. "Being able to exercise that capability is imperative. Within 40 days of when they say we need to be somewhere, we are there with all this capability and we can operate indefinitely off the coast of anyplace."

The T-AVB exercise is an annual event that takes place every other year on each coast of the United States. This



The SS Curtiss will house more than 300 MALS-16 Marines for Operation Pacific Provider '21. Official DoD photo

year the exercise takes place on the West Coast and next year it will be conducted on the East Coast aboard the SS Wright, berthed in Baltimore. The individual MALS units on both coasts also rotate through the exercise to make sure each unit has experience with the T-AVB.

This year's exercise, in terms of number of people going aboard the ship, the amount of equipment and the time afloat makes it the largest T-AVB deployment since Desert Shield/Desert Storm, according to Wiest.

"In past exercises, the idea was to demonstrate the capability to take some equipment out and operate, but we're trying to treat this the way it's written in the operating plan. The plan says how you would do it (in a real life situation) as far as equipment and people and we really want to demonstrate that," said Wiest.

Pacific Provider '21 kicked off April 20 and will continue through May 25 with the Marines making repairs to aircraft parts that are brought to them from local air stations. They will also be conducting force protection training to further train for real life situations.

Green Knights change COs



**Lt. Col.
Michael L. Sawyers**



**Lt. Col.
David C. Myers**

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Colonel Michael L. Sawyers relinquished command of Marine All-Weather Fighter-Attack Squadron 121 to Lt. Col. David C. Myers during a change-of-command ceremony April 20 at Hangar 1.

Sawyers, a Barstow native, has commanded the squadron since May 1999. His next assignment will be to serve as the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing's G-3.

Myers has been with Marine Aircraft Group 11 since October 1999, serving as the director of Safety and Standardization and the MAG's operations officer.

"This is a great opportunity and an undertaking to take command of such a highly-decorated, war-proven and combat-ready squadron."

Myers, a North Carolina native, received his commission April 15, 1982. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from the Western Carolina University.

Through his 19-year career, Myers has served VMFA (AW)-121 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His personal decorations include the Strike/Flight Air Medal with Numeral 4, a Navy Commendation Medal with a Bronze Star and a Combat "V," a Navy Achievement Medal with a Bronze Star and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Myers is married to the former Kimberli Lynn Coffman of Fullerton. They reside in Oceanside with their two children, Chase, 9, and Madison, 6.



Recognizing the best

Miramar's Cpl. David D. Hooke, consolidated memorandum receipt noncommissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, and Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Meche, flight equipment technician, H&HS MCAS Yuma, were named Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area NCO and Marine of the Quarter Tuesday. Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander,

MCABWA, said the two Marines carry exceptional qualities in leadership and initiative. Both Marines received certificates of commendation and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. Southern California citizens presented honorees with checks, clocks and a variety of gifts in support of the Marine Corps and MCABWA. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

MWSS-373 construction helps prepare for Leadership Education Seminar

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

All Marines need new challenges to break the monotony of the everyday work schedule. One unit here got that chance recently when it responded to a call for help.

Marines in the Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 construction shop got an opportunity to escape their established routines with a project to support the Leadership Education Seminar's theme: "Mainstreet Miramar: Building our Community."

"We responded to the request from Marine Corps Community Services to build signs for the seminar. They wanted buildings and symbols that would represent different parts of the Marine Corps," said Sgt. William M. Sanford, a squad leader with

MWSS-373 and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the project.

"In approximately 75 man-hours, we built and painted everything from churches to fitness centers to Marines in dress blues. It was a very different project from what we usually do," said Sanford, a Cooperstown, N.Y., native.

The construction shop usually does wood projects like building picture frames, plaques and desks. The shop is also qualified to handle concrete work according to Sanford.

The hardest part of the project for the construction Marines was cutting the plywood into a three-dimensional building.

"It was a learning experience, and the Marines involved performed in a stellar manner," said Sanford.

The Marines who took part spoke highly of the leadership and organization during the course of the two-week project. "The leadership was really involved. We got really organized in the beginning, and then the assembly line process took over. It worked well," said Lance Cpl. Pablo Hernandez, construction Marine and Victorville native.

Marine Corps Community Services has scheduled the seminar here from May 8 through May 10, and the seminar will focus on building tomorrow's leaders through educating military spouses in the roles, rights and responsibilities of leadership.

Each unit here has the opportunity to nominate one military spouse who has demonstrated leadership skills among peers within the military unit. Seating is limited to the first 60 nominations received by MCCS by April 16.

For more information about the Leadership Education Seminar contact Ruth Mushallo at 577-6931.

Flight Jacket



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Commanding General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases
Western Area

Maj. T.V. Johnson
Director, Public Affairs Office

Capt. Rebecca Goodrich-Hinton
Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

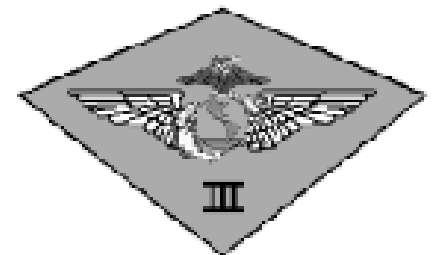
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Ad Space

Corps' senior enlisted often caught in identity crisis

By Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

MARFORPAC

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Every now and then I hear of a power struggle between some sergeant major or first sergeant (9999 billet) and a master gunnery sergeant or master sergeant. These little rifts between the upper-enlisted probably have been going on from the day the Corps first split the two pay grades. One might say it's an identity crisis between these four ranks.

Quite honestly, I think we (9999 community) have more of an identity crisis in the matter than our counterparts. I've learned from personal experiences to view master gunnery sergeants and master sergeants as the Corps' technical "duty experts," and 9999's more like "jacks of many Marine trades, but masters of none."

I will admit that as a young first sergeant, I too was caught up in such discussions. To be honest, my prejudicial attitude began once I decided, as a gunny, to go the 9999 path, rather than remain in my military occupational specialty. I felt that sergeants major

and first sergeants were more important to our beloved Corps as leaders.

The fact of the matter is both sides of our E-9 and E-8 ranks are equally vital to the success of any command. However, I again had to learn the hard way that one was not more important than the other.

As a just-promoted first sergeant, I reported to my new command just full of myself, thinking about how I was now "The Man." Checking in, I learned there were five master gunnies in our unit.

"No problem," I told myself. After all, my billet was "senior" to any master gunny billet so that made me boss hog. I held that thought until I had the pleasure of meeting Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson.

My first staff noncommissioned officer professional military education, I started things off by announcing that I was the "new sheriff in town," and that I was there to lay down the law on how things were going to be run from now on. The next morning Master Gunnery Sgt. Johnson sent me a pleasant invitation to visit him. I made a point to drop by his office that afternoon.

In the first few minutes of my visit, I learned a lot about him. In a quiet, yet direct, tone of voice he informed me that he had fought in Korea during 1950 and 1951 (five years before I was born).

Standing nose to nose, burning holes in my eyeballs with his, he subtly made me aware that he had more than 30 years active service and more time in grade than I had time-in-service.

I can tell you at this point, in this one-sided conversation, I knew that if I was the "sheriff," the master guns had to be the "mayor." Before he dismissed me from his office, he left me with one great piece of advice.

His advice to me was not to forget this little visit with him. He told me that if I ever forgot my relationship to him (as a Marine), if I ever forgot any of this conversation, he would not hesitate introducing his boot to my backside (to put it mildly).

After assisting me with an attitude adjustment that crusty old Marine spent the next couple of years supporting me 100 percent and teaching me how to be an effective

9999. He showed me the importance of senior enlisted working as one unit in harmony, regardless of rank, title or billet. Above all, he taught me that having a mutual respect for each other's billet and rank was paramount in accomplishing any mission.

All of you younger Marines may be asking yourselves, "What's this clash of the enlisted Titans have to do with me?" The answer is that misperceptions and stereotypes concerning our four elite enlisted grades could make our Corps less effective as a team.

This type of stereotyping could mislead potential command leaders (each of you) from choosing a career as a 9999. And likewise, it could cause some needed technical Marines to leave their technical billet thinking that to be a "real" Marine leader you have to be a 9999.

Every Marine has strengths and weaknesses, regardless of their rank, title or billet. A true Marine leader is one that can make use of others' strengths, no matter if their position is junior, senior or equal.

Semper Fi.

Sergeant Major's Column

Nurturing today's children builds tomorrow's leaders

By Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA

April has been designated the "Month of the Military Child" by the Secretary of Defense. As a parent of three children who have endured my absence during deployments, exercises and two tours of recruiting, I disagree with the secretary. The recognition of the sacrifices that we ask of our children should be spread over more than just one month.

How many times have our children made friends and had that friendship severed within a few years? How many different schools have they been enrolled in and had to endure once again "the new kid at school" experience?

Some of you were dependents yourselves and know exactly what I mean. Children sacrifice much as family members - often that sacrifice is taken for granted.

My children are grown and all but one have left the nest. In retrospect, without them and the unquestionable sacrifices they've made for me, I can honestly say that I wouldn't be where I am today. Don't they deserve more than just one month?

On a more somber note, the Commandant has also designated April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month." The theme this year is 'Nurturing Today's Children Builds Tomorrow's Leaders.' I agree with the theme but disagree with just a 30-day observation. It should be a 24-hour, 365-day observation.

As a parent and grandparent who has experienced more than his share of babysitting and diaper changes, I cannot envision abusing any child for any reason.

The New Parent Support Program offers instruction and support for new parents. The program explains why your little bundle of joy is crying; why they just don't seem to understand that you've had a hard day, are in a bad mood and just don't feel like playing when you do finally come home from work. The Family Advocacy Section of MCCS has information on this and other programs like it. New Parent Support can be reached at 577-6585.

This past week was designated "National Playground Safety Week" in support of the Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan. Something that I didn't know is that according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 200,000 preschool and elementary-aged children are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with playground equipment. A recent report by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons puts this number even higher at 565,000.

In 1981, the CPSC published safety guidelines in a handbook on public playground safety. This comprehensive handbook covers the guidelines and information for a variety of related subjects.

More information is available online at: www.cpsc.gov.

Remember, the children are our future.



Ad Space

ATTENTION COMMANDERS

Would you like to see your words in print? Would you like to get your word out to more Sailors and Marines than fall under your command? The Flight Jacket staff encourages commanders, officers-in-charge, chaplains, senior enlisted leaders or anyone with a command message to submit commentaries, news stories, feature stories or even photographs. Send submissions by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

I hope they weren't Marines

Name withheld by request of parent

Letter to the editor

My mommy is a Marine and I love my mommy. I want to be just like her.

My mommy works out a lot, because she needs more muscles to be a good Marine.

Sometimes my mommy goes to the gym on the weekends to work out. Since I want to be just like her, I asked if I could go and was very excited 'cause she said yes.

We signed in with a card thing and we got towels and started to go on those running things [treadmills] with my mommy's friend, Miss Carolyn.

They were running but I was walking fast, sometimes running. There was only one other person on the machine, but she smiled and said hello.

I was with my mommy the whole time. Then this lady came and said, "I'm sorry. You can't be here. You have to go sit on the

tables, because it's a rule."

I started crying and told my mommy what she said and mommy asked the lady why.

My mom was very upset. She told them that I like to work out with her and that I was right with her.

There were other kids there, playing with balls and running around. And my mom told the lady that I was right with her. But they said no.

I don't understand. I didn't do anything bad. I just wanted to be just like my mom.

Then, as we were leaving, I asked my mommy why.

She said, "Well, there are lots of kids running around, so I don't know."

Then another lady came up to my mommy and started yelling. She was saying cuss words and I started to cry.

My mommy told me to go outside and the lady came up to us. She said, "Oh do you wanna step outside? Let's step outside."

My mom told her that she was only tell-

ing me to go outside, but the lady was yelling and didn't listen.

My mommy told the lady to stop. She said, "You are scaring my daughter. You shouldn't talk like that in front of children."

She called my mommy names and mommy told me "come on, let's go."

The lady kept yelling at us Mommy asked her if she was in the military and who she worked for. She said yes, but that she didn't have to tell my mommy.

Mommy told me to "come on, let's just go," but then some man came up and said he was a Marine and the lady's husband.

I was just crying. Mommy pushed me outside and hugged me and we walked away.

When that lady was cursing at my mommy, I was just crying.

Those people said they were Marines but I don't think Marines act like that. Marines don't yell and scream and curse in front of little kids.

I sure hope they weren't Marines.

Why I decided to quit smokeless tobacco

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

Eight years ago, on my 13th birthday, I tried snuff for the very first time. The dizzying head rush and vomiting should have been enough to warn me, but my friends assured me, "It's an acquired taste."

Eight years later, three months away from my 21st birthday, I have successfully acquired the taste. Unfortunately, those friends aren't around anymore, and I have to ask myself, "Why do I continue to risk my life daily by putting known toxins and carcinogens into my body?"

The simple answer: I am addicted. Now, instead of being the occasional user of my former years, I am struggling to make it through half the work day without "dipping." Am I the victim of a large tobacco industry scheme?

Hardly.

My generation is lucky. We know the effects of tobacco use. We know what the tobacco industry did to our grandparents with their lies and false advertisements. We've seen the degenerative diseases associated with tobacco abuse steal our loved ones from us.

My grandfather was the victim of the tobacco industry. He died of emphysema when I was 15. The tobacco industry gave him free cigarettes, false proclamations from 'doctors', and ultimately sold him death. I hate the tobacco industry for that.

Yet, I dip. I put money in the pocket of "big tobacco." I finance their billion dollar ad campaigns to influence new customers. I have perpetuated the lie of social acceptance through tobacco use. I will not be party to that any longer.

I have a little brother, the world's greatest, who looks up to me. I have parents who love me, and a beautiful wife with nothing but promise. My older sister, a third grade

teacher, tells her class about her brother, the Marine, with pride. How would those people react to me if I had a gaping, cancerous hole where my mouth used to be? I don't think my brother would look up to me anymore.

I hate being called stupid, but being addicted to smokeless tobacco makes me one of the stupidest people I know. I have been taught the risks in school. I have seen the awful effects of tobacco use firsthand, and I have continued to live with the "won't happen to me" mentality. Knowing and not caring, that makes me stupid.

I am quitting, and I challenge all "dippers" to do the same. That's the only way to truly live with the "won't happen to me" mentality. Otherwise, I am fooling myself. It will happen to me. I will be the one, ravaged by disease, who dies prematurely. I will be the example for my kids and grandkids about what tobacco can do to the human body. That's a feeling I can live without - literally.

NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you have news? Did you take a newsworthy photo? Would you like to see your byline in the Flight Jacket? The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, editorials or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Ad Space

SAVE ENERGY



We may need it later

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Flight Jacket
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with convenience

Mir Remarks

What do you consider "child abuse?"



"If it causes physical or emotional harm."

Lance Cpl. Joe Cockrum
MWCS-38

multi-channel equipment repairman



"There are many forms of child abuse, but abuse is anytime a child's basic needs aren't met."

Master Sgt. Frederick S. Lemm
3d MAW
career planning officer



"It's abuse if it results in bruising or bleeding."

Lance Cpl. Brandy N. Dunn
MAL-11
maintenance administration clerk

Tax Center Marines help community file taxes

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

For some, tax season is a dreadful time of year. The fear of paying more money to the federal government sits heavy in their hearts and their pockets. For others, tax season is a good time of year, filled with joy because of returns from the Internal Revenue Service.

Four Miramar Marines from the Tax Center recently decided this was a good time of year to help ease some of the burden on the local community. Each Saturday for two weeks, two Marines went to local malls with other income tax preparers to help civilians file their income taxes.

Bloomington, Ind., native Lance Cpl. Jason Wichlacz, Tax Center electronic return originator, said a representative from the IRS approached the Marines during their three-week training course and asked for volunteers.

“We decided it was the same thing as working (aboard the air station),” he said. “We work Monday through Saturday here during tax season.”

At the malls, the Marines performed the same duties they do day in and day out for their fellow servicemembers. They took customers’ W-2 forms and processed their claims to the IRS. Although they didn’t get paid for their services, Wichlacz said the Marines were compensated by their good feelings of giving something back to the community.

“I felt good about volunteering,” he said. “If I had to do something on a Saturday, I’d rather do it helping people.”

The Marines, which included Tax Center electronic return originators Cpl. Kyung Choi from Burbank, Cpl. Stephen Jackson from Detroit and Cpl. Larry Williams, from Memphis, Tenn., and Wichlacz were part of a team sponsored by KFMB News Channel 8, San Diego. The team was known as Team 8 Volunteer Income Tax

Assistance, or VITA for short.

This is the first year the four Marines have filed taxes for others, but they all agreed that if they were given the chance, they would do all over again. Williams has already had a Permanent Change of Station move, and Jackson is waiting for PCS orders, but Wichlacz is eagerly anticipating the call for next year’s volunteers.

“If I’m here I’ll do it again,” he said. “It’s nice to help others, and it’s a nice break from the unit.”



Tax Center electronic return originators (left to right) Lance Cpl. Jason Wichlacz, Cpl. Stephen Jackson and Cpl. Kyung Choi recently volunteered their tax filing knowledge to help the local community. Along with Cpl. Larry Williams (not pictured), they were part of a group called Team 8 VITA which prepared returns for free to civilians in the community. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MALS-16 officer creates awards for his Marines

By Cpl. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Warrant Officer 1 Kenneth J. Baker, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 16 repairables management division officer in charge, has recently implemented two new awards for his Marines.

The award for lance corporals and below is called the Initiative Award and is awarded for the act of doing something that needed to be done without being told to do it. It is the noncommissioned officers who notice the good deeds and write the recommendations for that particular Marine.

“Not only does it increase the initiative for the lance corporals and below, but it also builds confidence in the NCO’s abilities to know their Marines,” said Baker.

Marines compete for this award among themselves. The award is for the repairables management division Marines only, which keeps all the Marines striving for their best, according to Baker.

An award for NCOs was also created. It is called the Innovator Award and is awarded for an NCO coming up with a better method of getting the mission accomplished.

Baker said he has brought this idea for showing recognition everywhere he’s been and will implement it at every place he goes.

“I think it’s a good idea for leaders to realize that there is always one more way to inspire others and show appreciation,” said Baker. “It’s just one more way to say thank you.”

Ad Space

Lean, mean, green-thumbed Marines

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

POWAY – Armed not with weapons of war, four Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 recently came to the rescue of a local gardener. These knights in shining armor responded to a call for help from a damsel in distress.

Armed only with shovels, rakes and other garden implements, these environmentally conscious Marines saved the day.

Rachele Melious, a local gardener, received news that she would have less than 24 hours to set up the gardening exhibit she had planned months in advance.

The exhibit, a permanent low-allergy garden, was to be introduced April 21 at the Poway Valley Garden Club's 24th Annual Flower Show. The show was a part of the city's Earth Day Celebration at Old Poway Park.

Melious, mistakenly thought exhibitors would have three days to build their displays.

She panicked.

A former Sailor, Melious tried to think of who had a



Lance Cpl. Nathaniel J. King, motor transportation operator, MWSS-373 and Dallas native, waters one of the many plants in a low-allergy garden in Poway April 19. King volunteered his time to assist a local gardener who came to the Marines for help. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington



All the flowers in this garden are low-pollen producing. Using low-allergy plants makes it tolerable for those who suffer from allergies but enjoy having and maintaining a visually pleasing garden. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

reputation for getting things done quickly and effectively. She immediately thought of the Navy's sister service - the Marines.

However, she didn't think she would receive a positive response to her unusual request for assistance.

"You normally don't think of Marines and gardening in the same thought," Melious stated. "I fully expected a nice letter stating, 'Unfortunately we are unable to support your request.'"

"I was shocked and delighted to learn they were willing to assist," added Melious.

Told of their mission, assisting in the construction of the display according to Melious' design, the MWSS-373 Marines jumped right in.

On the first day, they loaded a dump truck full of mulch, a pallet of bricks, 48 landscaping timbers and two backhoes full of gravel all in a little more than an hour.

"It would have taken me three days to do that," add Melious, who would have had to transport all the supplies with only the aid of her small pickup truck. "They even went beyond the call as they viewed the site, planned a strategy and helped me line up my plants."

The next day the Marines arrived again. Among some

of the tasks the Miramar group was charged with, they spread mulch and placed low-allergy plants in an improvised design around the garden.

"It's good to help our neighbors," said Lance Cpl. Cuong P. Tran, Los Angeles native and a drafter and surveyor. "We do share the community with them."

"Helping the community builds friendship," said fellow drafter and surveyor, Cpl. Jose J. Villapizano of San Diego. "Some people think all we do is cause trouble, but I hope this shows the community we're not all bad."

However, the garden was still missing something, according to Melious. One of the park's benches was placed in the exhibit.

With the bench and the symphony of color and pattern, the exhibit grew from bare dirt into a finished project.

As the finishing touches were placed on the exhibit, the Marines and Melious knew they accomplished their seemingly impossible task.

According to Melious, "it was everything I dreamed it would be.

"Not only are they ready and willing to defend our country, they are also ready and willing to support our community," Melious concluded.

Ad Space

Outdoor Adventure Center helps Marines discover San Diego

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Corps Community Services here offers a free program that gives Marines, Sailors and family members the opportunity to explore the San Diego area's natural beauty.

Discover Programs, founded in 1999, gives active-duty military and family members a chance to get outside and discover what's out there for the mind, body and spirit, said Nancy J. Dussault, manager of the Outdoor Adventure Center.

Discover Programs showcase the OAC's most popular outdoor adventure activities including snorkeling, skiing, mountain biking and backpacking. The program is designed to walk participants through a step-by-step class highlighting safety and equipment issues associated with outdoor adventures.

"We offer the classes to show what we

have here in our facility and get people familiar with the equipment before they try something new. You should know how to take care of your equipment and how to use your equipment before you start. There's always something we can teach you; even if you're an 'expert'" said Dussault.

Following the hour-long class, participants will embark on a guided trek into the San Diego area's outdoors.

"We're offering to drive for you, carry your equipment, provide a skilled guide and rent any equipment you need at half-price. All to get you outside to enjoy the beauty of nature," said Dussault.

Discover Programs not only gives Marines, Sailors, and family members the opportunity to learn the basics of outdoor recreation, but it also provides the chance to apply the basics in an actual outing.

For more information contact the Outdoor Adventure Center at 577-4150.



Chad Ulwelling, Outdoor Adventure Center recreational coordinator, looks on as Surban Ramesses of North Island prepares his tire. Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong



Lance Cpl. Jay A. Donovan, metalsmith, MALS-16, demonstrates an "endo" while warming up for a ride. Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong

So you want to play games? Let MCCS help your unit during deployments

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Sitting on ship in the Mediterranean Sea or in the deserts of Saudi Arabia for long periods of time can negatively affect the morale of a unit. Boredom breeds trouble, but there is a program to combat restlessness during deployments.

Marine Corps Community Services here offers Recreational Mobility Kits for any deploying unit or squadron.

"'Serving those who serve' is our mission. Recreation is a big part of any deployment, because we don't want anyone to go 'stir-crazy' during six-month separations," said Nancy J. Dussault, manager of the Outdoor Adventure Center here. The ORC is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the kits.

The kits consist of everything from

softballs and basketballs to books and Playstation game consoles. All at a price that is hard to beat – free.

"We have a basic list of recreational items we supply. Deploying units can tell us what they want even if it's not on the list, and we will try to get it," said Dussault.

According to MCCS Instruction 1710.12A, the deploying unit's Recreational Officer must submit a request to the ORC manager no later than two weeks prior to deployment. The unit will be responsible for the care and accountability of all the equipment checked out.

"Thankfully, we're starting to see more interest in the program. Word is getting out and we are here to help," said Dussault.

For more information about Recreational Mobility Kits contact the ORC at 577-4150.

Ad Space

Twentynine Palms spikes Pendleton, wins volleyball crown

By Cpl. Erickson J. Barnes

CPAO, MAGCC Twentynine Palms

MARINE AIR-GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS — The Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Command Twentynine Palms volleyball team defeated Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, to claim the West Coast Regional Volleyball Championship April 12 at the West Gym here.

The Combat Center’s squad needed all three games to secure the best-of-three match after a slow start cost them the first game, 16-25.

The teams then traded sides of the court, and the momentum changed hands. The Combat Center team took control in the second game, handing MCB a 25-16 loss of their own, then dominated the third game to secure the match.

“This team was solid all around,” said Jimmy Daily, Combat Center coach. “We didn’t rely on one or two people like most teams. Everyone on our side could hit and get the job done.”

The Combat Center team was more prepared than ever for this tournament, according to Daily. However, the road to the championship was paved with challenges in the form of well-prepared and competitive teams.

“This tournament was wide open,” said Skip Best, director, MAGTF TC Marine Corps Community Services Sports. “This was an excellent demonstration of the level of competition in our region. We had good



Twentynine Palms’ defense played a big part in capturing the West Coast Regional Championship, April 12. Photo by Cpl. Erickson J. Barnes

teams playing at a high level.”

The other three teams in the tournament were from Marine Corps Air Station Mira-

mar, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, which finished in the third position after los-

ing to MCB in the semi-final match.

According to Best, the tournament usually includes eight teams. Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, MCAS Yuma and 3d Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, were not able to participate this year.

The Regional Championship tournament began with a round-robin seeding tournament the day before the opening ceremony. Equality in the level of competition was evident from the beginning, according to Best. Each team played each other once, and none came out unbeaten. Three of the five teams finished with 2-2 records.

Following the opening ceremony April 10, Twentynine Palms and Miramar kicked off the double-elimination tournament. Twentynine Palms defeated Miramar and MCRD leading to a championship preview against MCB the next evening. MCB added Division to the group of teams hanging on in the losers’ bracket on their way to the championship preview.

Twentynine Palms triumphed in the two team’s first meeting, sending MCB to face a strong MCRD team to decide who would challenge the Combat Center team for the title. MCB used all three games to capture the victory, securing their spot in the championship match. However, MCB was now in the disadvantageous position of having to defeat Twentynine Palms in two consecutive matches to claim the championship.

MCB made a strong showing but wasn’t able to conquer the home team.

See **Volleyball**, page 11

Ad Space



Getting their kicks

Arsenals’ Chicas Perez (left) of Inglewood, went toe-to-toe with MALS-11’s Vahtsan “Kombat” Kotrsonbat (right) when the two undefeated teams met on the field April 19. Wing headquarters’ Arsenalns slammed MALS-11 6-3 in a showdown that ended MALS-11’s undefeated record. MALS-11 played hard but met a solid wall of resistance in the Arsenalns’ game. An enormous brick in that wall was 6-foot-4-inch forward, Tim Davis of New Orleans, who scored three goals against the MALS-11 defense. The Arsenalns’ victory adds another tally on their 12-0 winning streak, while MALS-11 drops to 8-1. Soccer fans can get into the action and support the league by rooting for teams at games played at noon almost daily aboard the air station. Schedules are posted in the Semper Fit fitness center, Building 2471. Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong

Following the Friars

“The team of the Navy and Marine Corps”



Rickey Henderson, record-breaking Padres outfielder, got his first start of the season April 19 against the Rockies. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

It was a grueling week for the Friars, complete with two shutouts, an injured Tony Gwynn, and a twice tossed general manager. To fair-weather Friar fans, just remember, “Every dog has his day.” It just wasn’t the Padres’ week...

Game two of the three-game series with the Colorado Rockies, an embarrassing 8-0 shutout April 18, saw Padres’ pitcher Adam Eaton give up six runs – five earned – on six hits in five innings. Eaton only threw two strikeouts, but gave up five walks. The uncharacteristic game gave Eaton a pitching record of 2-1.

On April 19, the Rockies again shut the Padres out and rocked back to the “Mile-High” city riding the coattails of a 4-0 win and a three-game sweep. Padres starting pitcher Woody Williams tried to jumpstart his team by only giving up four runs – two earned – on eleven hits through seven innings. Woody Williams, credited with the loss, dropped to a lopsided 1-2. Other noteworthy news: Rickey Henderson, record-breaking Padres outfielder, got his first start of the season, but went 0-4 with a strikeout.

The Padres lost 3-1 to the Los Angeles Dodgers in L.A. on April 20. Padres outfielder Tony Gwynn pulled his hamstring while rounding first in the top of the sixth inning. The injury put Gwynn on the 15-day disabled list. Padres pitcher Brian Tollberg threw five scoreless innings, but the bottom of the seventh saw the Dodgers score twice to take the lead. The Padres weren’t to recover, and the club slipped to four games back from the division leading San Francisco Giants.

The Dodgers, in game two of the three-game series, showed the Padres the loss column for the sixth straight night in a 4-2 victory at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The Padres fell victim to a bad call from umpire Mike DiMuro in a play along the right-field line in which a fan interfered with

the natural travel of the ball. DiMuro, instead of awarding the prescribed dead-ball double, gave Dodgers outfielder Tom Godwin third base bringing two runs home. Padres manager, Bruce Bochy was ejected for the first time this season while arguing the call with DiMuro.

In their only win of the week, the Padres battled through an eleven-inning match on the Dodgers’ home turf April 22 to win 7-6. In another questionable call in the ninth inning, the Dodgers were awarded a three-run homer off Padres pitcher Trevor Hoffman. The call, according to Bochy, should have been ruled an out, because – once again - a fan interfered with the natural path of the baseball. For the second time in as many games, Bochy was tossed as he argued for his team. Fortunately, Padres outfielder Bubba Trammell ended the six-game losing streak with a double in the eleventh inning. Hello, win column.

Monday night, back at home, back to Eaton’s pitching and back to the loss column with a 5-3 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies. Eaton gave up four runs in the first three innings to give the Phillies the win at Qualcomm Stadium. Eaton’s record evened out at 2-2.

Tuesday night, the Padres’ eighth game without rest, brought more of the same from the Phillies who dealt the Friars a 12-7 loss. The noteworthy event of the night was Rickey Henderson tying Babe Ruth’s record for lifetime walks with 2,062.

While the week was fraught with loss for the Friars, the Padres continue to charge. Only 4.5 games back with an overall record of 7-13, the Padres will face Philadelphia, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Chicago Cubs in the coming weeks.

For Padres home-game tickets visit the Marine Corps Community Services Ticket Office.

Ad Space

Suicide prevention training

Navy Lt. Danisha Robbins, who holds a doctorate, provides leaders an inside look at the Marine Corps' suicide prevention plan in two sessions Monday in the O' Club main ballroom.

The morning session, 10 to 11:30 a.m., will focus on ALMARS, MARADMINS, Directives, and Instructions pertaining to suicide prevention and many other subjects.

The 1:30 to 3 p.m. session will focus on what the Department of Navy Suicide and Incident Report is, its implementation and why the Navy and Marine Corps uses it. Robbins will also review the Corps' current initiatives in suicide prevention.

For details call Bob Lloyd at 577-6235.

S.O.A.R.

Singles Outreach and Response, sponsored by the Chapel will meet May 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the AT&T building between barracks 697 and 698.

For more information call Chief Petty Officer Mark Bouchard at 577-6616.

Don't just sit there - volunteer

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, the Teen Center is looking for some new furniture, computer games, microwave ovens and drivers to transport them on outings. For details call Freddie Taylor at 577-4121.

Also, the Single Marine Program is looking for volunteers to assist them at the Angier Elementary School on May 23 as they take part in the schools annual Field Day. They are particularly looking for volunteers for the dunk tank.

For more information call DJ McCluskey at 577-1936.

Youth Games seeks volunteers

The Greater San Diego Inner-City Games is looking for volunteers to help San Diego County youth as they celebrate the end of the school year.

The games will be held at the San Diego Sports Arena parking lot.

For more information contact Janey Gidion at 642-9221 or online at GSDICG@aol.com.

Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities

The Exceptional Family Member Program holds the third meeting for the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities at the Friendship Center, May 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Representatives from the Social Security

Administration will be discussing topics dealing with disability income. The committee will also discuss finalization of the final draft of the committee constitution.

Anyone is welcome to join or attend.

For information call Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Keating at 577-4098.

HMH-465 holds first reunion

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465 plans to hold their first-ever reunion in Las Vegas, May 18 and 19.

For more information call Lt. Col. Tim Fitzgerald at 577-6176.

Main (East) Gate Closure

Due to renovation, the Main Gate will be closed periodically between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. until June 4. Lane closures and traffic delays should be expected while construction work is underway.

Stand up, buckle up, and shuffle to the Cadence Competition

Marine Corps Community Services offers the Armed Forces Day Cadence Competition.

Elimination rounds are scheduled for May 16 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Finals are scheduled to take place May 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Entries should be turned into the Semper Fit Fitness and Sports Center, Building 2471. Entry deadline is May 11.

For more information call Lynn Sanchez at 577-4129.

Mira Mesa Pop Warner cheerleading seeks coaches

Drag out all those old cheers you knew in high school and encourage community youth activities. No experience is necessary.

For details call Evelyn Pine at 271-7392.

Pop Warner football and cheerleader sign-ups

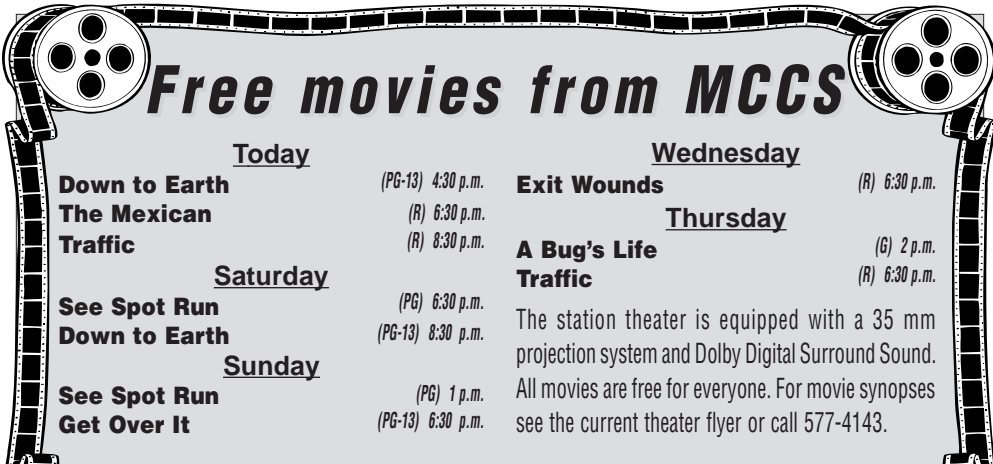
Mira Mesa Pop Warner football and cheerleader sign-ups are scheduled for Sunday and May 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mira Mesa Recreation Center.

For details call Evelyn Pine at 271-7392.

Education Center offers SAT, ACT

The Education Center is administering the Scholastic Aptitude Test on the first and third Tuesdays during April, May and June at 7:30 a.m.

Reservations are not required. However, personnel who have not reserved their tests will be served on a first-come, first-served



Free movies from MCCS

	Today	Wednesday	Thursday
Down to Earth	(PG-13) 4:30 p.m.	Exit Wounds	(R) 6:30 p.m.
The Mexican	(R) 6:30 p.m.		
Traffic	(R) 8:30 p.m.		
	Saturday		
See Spot Run	(PG) 6:30 p.m.		
Down to Earth	(PG-13) 8:30 p.m.		
	Sunday		
See Spot Run	(PG) 1 p.m.		
Get Over It	(PG-13) 6:30 p.m.		

basis.

The Academic Collegiate Test is administered the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

For more information call Charles D. Banks at 577-1895.

Salute to America's military

Salute America's military at San Diego's largest Armed Forces Day celebration. The 2001 Armed Forces Day Festival will be held at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar May 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join more than 15,000 visitors at this event, which is open to the public.

For more information access Miramar MCCS online at www.mccsmiramar.com/armed_forces_day.htm.

Flying Leatherneck Historical foundation seeks volunteers

Volunteers are needed to fill docent and gift shop personnel duties at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum here.

For more information call 693-1723.

Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration

The 2001 Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration "Strength in Diversity" takes place 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., May 8. Live entertainment, ethnic food booths, children's arts and crafts booths, and educational and art displays help offer Miramar Marines and their families a taste of other cultures.

For more information call 577-4099 or visit www.mccsmiramar.com/mchdc.htm.

All-Marine Skeet team seeks competitors

MCCS will select a five-person, all-Marine team to compete in the Armed Forces Skeet Championship in Phoenix May 10-19.

Interested Marines must submit resumes containing command endorsement and must be National Skeet Shooting Association members.

For details call (703) 784-9542.

Golf meeting scheduled

An intramural golf league meeting for the upcoming summer season is scheduled for May 8 at 11:30 a.m., at the Miramar Gymnasium conference room, Building 2471.

For more information call Bob Stopp at 577-4127.

Annual Tug-of-War seeks teams

The Annual Health Day Fair presents the Tug-of-War event May 24.

Teams interested in competing are urged to contact Capt. Donald L. Bohannon at 577-8430 as soon as possible. Only the first 12 teams will be allowed to enter. Teams will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. Teams must include 12 members.

Sign-up sheets will be located at the fitness center.

NWCA Scholarship Foundation accepting applications

The Navy Wives Clubs of America offers \$1,500 annual scholarship grants to eligible sons and daughters of enlisted members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard on active duty, retired with pay or deceased.

The NWCA awards 40 scholarships annually to applicants who show basis of need for financial assistance, who have good grades and hold a current military identification card.

The deadline for applications is May 30. Applicants should send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to:

Mrs. Barbara Stead
NWCA Scholarship Director
3848 Old Colony Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2910

Miramar Fire Dept. announces Charity Golf Tournament

The Miramar Fire Department holds the Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament June 1. Carlton Oaks Country Club in Santee will hold the event that benefits the San Diego Burn Institute.

For more information about the charity golf tournament call Mark Weimann at 577-6137.

Welcome aboard brief changes to Wednesdays

The Commanding General's Welcome Aboard Brief at the Joint Reception Center, Building 2258, has changed to the first and third Wednesday of each month vice Monday. The brief is from 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The following dates are provided for you to plan accordingly:

May 2, 16
June 6, 20

For more information about the commanding general's brief call 577-1783 or 577-9123

YMCA Out & About Tour changes to Thursdays

The YMCA Out & About Tour has changed to the first and third Thursdays instead of Tuesdays. The brief will take place from 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the tour will take place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WIC extends helping hand

The San Diego area American Red Cross Women, Infants and Children program makes it easier for families with children under 5 years old who find it difficult to make ends meet in this high cost-of-living area.

WIC provides vouchers for nutritious food worth up to \$130 per month, as well as nutrition education, breastfeeding education, and referrals to health care.

Financial eligibility depends on total family size and income.

For more information about WIC call 800-500-6411.

Ad Space

Cole,
continued from page 1

“He was always fair, and he didn’t treat anyone different. He also had a way of pushing his Marines to their absolute maximum potential to get the job done,” said Tomasino. “Gunny Cole set the example for my expectations of a staff NCO.”

Cole answers his success shortly and modestly; “I hate downed jets.” Cole has been with VMFA-232 for more than 10 of his 17 years in the Corps. With the majority of his experience as part of the Red Devil squadron, it seems as though he has become an expert on the aircraft.

“Gunny’s knowledge about the aircraft is unsurpassed,” said Master Sgt. Ted Allen, VMFA-232 maintenance chief. “The aircraft seem to take on their own personalities. You’ve heard of the ‘Horse Whisperer,’ well, he’s the airplane whisperer.”

According to Tomasino, the reason that the squadron operates so smoothly is because of Cole. She says his work ethic has rubbed off on everyone he supervises.

“Gunnery Sergeant Cole continues to be the most valuable Marine in my maintenance control department,” said 2nd Lt. Alex Rodriguez, VMFA-232 maintenance mate-

rial control officer. “His managerial skills are unprecedented, and his vast knowledge and years of experience only emphasizes his attention to detail and unlimited growth potential.”

Volleyball,
continued from page 8

“This was our house and our base and we were going to defend it,” said Daily. “Everyone stepped up to defend their house. We are honored to have won the Regional Championship on our own turf.”

“We had well-balanced players, executing and playing together, the coach was putting together a good game plan, and we knew who we had to stop from (Twentynine Palms),” said John Nelson, captain, MCB. “They had a lot of good talent. This is the deepest we’ve seen the Twentynine Palms team - all 12 are good players.”

“I think we had pretty even teams and it was a close game, but the mental errors cost us,” said Nelson.

“Someone has to lose,” said Larry Lariosa, coach, MCB. “But the players from Marine Corps Base are winners because of their professionalism and the will to win they have shown during this tournament.”



Flightline field trip

Students from John Muir Alternative School view an aircraft engine during the school’s visit to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 April 17. The school and the squadron have shared a partnership in education for three years. The visit allowed Marines to show students, for whom they are tutors and mentors, a little about the air station and how they support an aircraft squadron. As students toured the squadron, they had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the Marines’ jobs. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho